

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: HAZARDOUS WASTE PILOT STUDY MEETING
WASHINGTON, MAY 9-13

1. SUMMARY. PLENARY SESSION OF THE FRG-LED CCMS PILOT STUDY ON HAZARDOUS WASTES WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC ON MAY 9-13, 1977 AT THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND WAS HOSTED BY US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING INCLUDED: FRG (PILOT), BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, UK, AND US. AN EEC REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO FINALIZE THE DRAFT REPORTS ON THE SIX SUB-PROJECTS COMPRISING THE PILOT STUDY. THE FINAL CORRECTED SUB-PROJECT REPORTS ARE TO BE FORWARDED TO THE PILOT COUNTRY BY MID-JULY. THE FINAL PILOT STUDY REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CCMS PLENARY IN OCTOBER, 1977.
PLANS FOR PHASE II SUB-PROJECTS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. END
SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING WELCOMING REMARKS BY MR. SHELDON MEYERS,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR SOLID WASTE OF THE US
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, DR. BERND WOLBECK,

LEADER OF THE FRG DELEGATION AND THE PILOT STUDY,
CONVENED THE MEETING FOR A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE FIVE
SUB-PROJECT REPORTS.

3. THE REPORT OF THE UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL SUB-PROJECT
LED BY BELGIUM WAS APPROVED AS AMENDED. THE REPORT
CONCLUDED THAT MINE DISPOSAL IS A VIABLE SOLUTION FOR
DISPOSAL OF SOME HAZARDOUS WASTE WHERE PRODUCTION OF
SUCH WASTES IS UNAVOIDABLE AND WHEN RECYCLING, RECOVERY
AND OTHER DISPOSAL METHODS ARE NOT REALIZABLE WITH
EXISTING TECHNOLOGY OR ECONOMICS.

4. THE REPORT OF THE LANDFILL SUB-PROJECT LED BY THE UK
WAS APPROVED AS AMENDED. ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS
WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THE EXTENT TO WHICH LANDFILL AND
SPECIAL LANDFILL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES ARE PRACTICED IN
CCMS COUNTRIES VARIES, THEY REPRESENT IMPORTANT METHODS
OF DISPOSAL -- BOTH NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE. SOME PARTICI-
PATING COUNTRIES FEEL THAT THERE ARE FEW ALTERNATIVE
DISPOSAL METHODS HAVING SIMILAR HIGH CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH
LARGE VOLUMES AND WIDE VARIETIES OF WASTES.

5. THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT SUB-PROJECT LED BY THE
US DOT WAS AMENDED AND, PENDING FINAL REVIEW, WAS
APPROVED. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE ORIGINAL
SHIPPER (PRODUCER) OR ANY SUBSEQUENT SHIPPER OF HAZARDOUS
WASTE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTION OF THE PACKAGING,
LABELLING, PLACARDING, AND CLEARLY INDICATING WASTE
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COMPOSITION AND WASTE SPILL CLEAN-UP INFORMATION FOR
TRANSPORTERS. THE REPORT ALSO CONCLUDED THAT HAZARDOUS
WASTES OF A CHRONIC TYPE WHICH MIGHT POSE A HAZARD FOR
HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT WHICH DO NOT MEET UN
CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR ACUTE HAZARD, SHOULD AT
LEAST BE SUBJECT TO SHIPPING PAPER (MANIFEST)
MARKING REQUIREMENTS SO THAT THE WASTES CAN BE CONTROLLED
FROM PRODUCER TO DISPOSER AND REQUIREMENTS FOR
HANDLING SPILLS DUE TO ACCIDENTS ARE SPECIFIED.

6. THE REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION SUB-PROJECT LED BY
THE FRG WAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED AS AMENDED. THE REPORT
CONCLUDED THAT THE CONSTITUTION, LEGAL SYSTEM AND POLITICAL
OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IN ESTABLISHING ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS FOR THE
DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES. WASTE DISPOSAL AND THE
OPERATION OF DISPOSAL FACILITIES IS NOT, IN PRINCIPLE,
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT; THE WASTE-GENERATING

INDUSTRY AS WELL AS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAVE TO TAKE OVER
IMPORTANT TASKS IN THIS FIELD.

ANOTHER CONCLUSION INVOLVED THE ESSENTIAL TASK OF PLANNING
THE DISPOSAL SYSTEM. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE
ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS
AREA. THE PLANNING OF SITES FOR DISPATCH FACILITIES SHOULD
BE UNDERTAKEN AT MINIMUM ON A REGIONAL BASIS. IN
ADDITION, THE DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES REQUIRES
CONTROL BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE LICENSING
AND VERIFICATION OF FACILITIES AND THE FINAL DISPOSAL
OF THE WASTES.

7. THE REPORT ON THE SUB-PROJECT ON RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES
FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (LED BY US EPA AND CANADA)
WAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED AS AMENDED. THIS REPORT
DISCUSSES DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE, WASTE SAMPLING
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AND ANALYSIS, SITE SELECTION (INCLUDING CITIZEN ACCEPTANCE)
LONG-TERM CARE, PERMIT PROCESSES, LABELLING, AND FACILITY
SAFETY.

WITH REGARD TO REGULATORY DEFINITIONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE,
THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO THE LEGISLATIVE
DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE--THE LIST APPROACH AND THE
CRITERIA APPROACH. IN BOTH CASES, SOME FORM OF A LIST IS
THE END RESULT OF THE REGULATIONS. A CONSENSUS FOR A
CCMS HAZARDOUS WASTE LIST DOES NOT SEEM FEASIBLE DUE TO
BASIC DIFFERENCES IN HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY,
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES OF THE VARIOUS GOVERN-
MENTS, AND THE PRESENT LACK OF INFORMATION ON THE
PROPERTIES OF MANY WASTES.

8. THE SUB-PROJECT ON THE CHROMIUM CYCLE LED BY FRANCE
HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE PILOT STUDY EXPERTS.

9. PRESENTATIONS WERE ALSO MADE BY THE FRG ON CCMS
PUBLICATION NO. 55 DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, NORWAY
ON THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN THAT COUNTRY, AND
FRANCE ON THE ON-GOING STUDIES ON SURFACE TREATMENT
WASTES.

10. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE TOPICS FOR PHASE II OF
THE PILOT STUDY ON HAZARDOUS WASTES. PROJECT OUTLINES

WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE CCMS PLENARY, OCTOBER 18-19.
THE FOLLOWING SUB-PROJECTS AND PILOT COUNTRY LEADERS WERE
AGREED: LANDFILL (CONTINUATION), CANADA; SURFACE
TREATMENT WASTES, FRANCE; THERMAL TREATMENT, FRG; AND

PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT, US.

11. A FIELD TRIP DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 16-20 FOR SOME
OF THE DELEGATES FOLLOWED THE MEETING. THEY VISITED
THE ST. LOUIS WASTE EXCHANGE, A HIGH TEMPERATURE
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INCINERATOR AT MONSANTO, INC., AND AN EPA RESEARCH PROJECT
ON CHEMICALLY FIXED WASTES IN JACKSON, MISS. THEY
ALSO ATTENDED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSN. IN NEW ORLEANS.

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